

To: Amherst Select Board

From: Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee

Date: November 18, 2009

Re: Route 116 Resurfacing and Bike Lanes

At its November 17, 2009 meeting, the Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee voted unanimously to request that the Select Board diligently pursue including Mass DOT bike lanes in the 116 Resurfacing Project .

We now have excellent bike lanes north of Snell St through the center of Town to UMass and northeast to Pine St.

We are pleased to learn that ARRA "Stimulus" funds are now available to repave Route 116 south of Snell St. When Mass Highway parts of this roadway were last repaved about a decade ago, some effort was made to include bike lanes along its length. However the result then was less than ideal in some places.

Since we expect the planned new pavement will again last more than a decade, we believe this presents a wonderful and timely opportunity to provide Mass DOT standard on-road bike lanes for this principal north-south route, and we urge that these be included in the project.

Doing so should not increase the cost of the project, but it does require some planning and attention to detail. Our committee is willing and able to help with those details, and so we would appreciate the opportunity to review these plans in a timely manner.